UNITED NATIONS **E**

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/37
14 August 2001

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on the Promotion
and Protection of Human Rights
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 6

OTHER ISSUES

Note verbale dated 10 August 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the secretariat of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the fifty-third session of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and has the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the statement of the delegation of the Republic of Iraq, entitled "Terrorism and human rights".

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq kindly requests the secretariat of the Sub-Commission to circulate this statement* as an official document of the fifty-third session of the Sub-Commission under agenda item 6, entitled "Other Issues".

---

* The annex is reproduced as received, in Arabic and English only.

GE.01-15385 (E) 240801 270801

Annex

Human rights and terrorism

Mr. Chairman,

Although terrorism is nothing new, having existed throughout history, in our present day and age its scope has widened, transforming it from local into international terrorism.

The present age of increasing globalization is also an age of increasing decadence, which is undermining social solidarity and inducing extremist groups to intensify their opposition and adopt terrorism as a means to further their interests. The far-reaching revolution in communications, as well as the amazing technological developments and trade liberalization, may also have helped to expand the scope of terrorism notwithstanding the numerous international instruments and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights condemning terrorism as an activity detrimental to human rights and fundamental freedoms. Moreover, the endeavours that have been made to combat terrorism have not yet been sufficiently developed at the international and regional levels. The adoption of unilateral and even bilateral measures may not be enough to counter the threat that is facing the entire world and, therefore, international cooperation and coordination are of considerable, even vital, importance in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

Iraq's position on the question of terrorism is illustrated by its signature and ratification of many of the conventions prohibiting terrorism. It has condemned all forms of terrorism and the Iraqi Penal Code promulgated in Act No. 111 of 1969 prescribes severe penalties for the perpetrators of criminal acts of terrorism.

Iraq has called for the formulation of a clear and precise definition of international terrorism which would be acceptable to the international community and has declared itself in favour of the holding of an international conference, under United Nations auspices, to study terrorism and the need to ensure that the right of peoples to self-determination and decolonization through legitimate struggle to achieve their freedom and independence is not confused with any form of terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

In the face of the international community's concerns and the dangers that terrorism entails, reference must be made to the modern means, some of which are highly technologically advanced, to which some States resort in order to damage and impair the infrastructures and vital utilities of States for political ends, nor should we forget the operations in which political movements are being funded, supported, armed and encouraged to engage in acts of rebellion and sabotage against, or in the territory of, other States in order to subject them to destabilizing pressures.

In this regard, my country's delegation wishes to point out that Iraq is still being targeted by terrorist groups which are receiving financial and political support from States claiming to be promoters of human rights and democracy, and particularly from the United States of America. It is noteworthy that, in 1998, the United States Congress passed the so-called "Iraq Liberation Act" under which $97 million were allocated to fund a group of mercenaries, hirelings of the United States intelligence services, so that they could carry out acts of terrorism and sabotage inside Iraq with a view to disrupting its order and security and killing its innocent civilians.

United States and British aircraft are carrying out daily raids and acts of aggression on the pretext of protecting the so-called "air exclusion zones" in northern and southern Iraq where they are targeting peaceful residential areas and destroying civilian infrastructures. As a result of this aerial bombardment of civilian areas, more than 350,000 civilians, mostly women, children and aged persons, have been killed and thousands injured.

The deplorable international terrorism to which the people of Iraq are being subjected by the United States of America and the United Kingdom merits condemnation and a demand for its immediate cessation since it is undermining the international endeavours and resolutions seeking to eliminate the phenomenon of terrorism.

Thank you.